



# G-5's "Eye on AMC"

## **U.S. Army Materiel Command**

*The Army's Premier Provider of Materiel Readiness*

June 3, 2005

### **Improved pendant assists helicopter sling load delivery**

The Natick Soldier Center's Aerial Delivery and Engineering Support Team at the U.S. Army Soldier System's Center in Natick, Mass., along with manufacturers developed an improved pendant for the sand-filled experience of Iraq that causes potential mechanical problems for helicopters.

"When we originally developed the pendant, we knew sand could be a problem, especially in a rapid development situation," said Scott Ullery, project officer for the revised pendant. "Sand can get into the fibers while lying on the ground or as it stretches in the air. The sand particles can be very sharp and cut core fibers in ways you can't see."

With the ability to land next to the cargo because of what amounts to extra sling length, the pendant reduces the static electricity and collision hazards, and allows ground troops to fly on the same helicopter that is carrying their equipment. Time on the pickup zone is reduced because the process is more predictable, Ullery said, and a group of helicopters is less likely to be slowed down by one delayed sling load. For extra distance away from the load, two pendants can be joined. A swivel prevents twisting of the pendant on single-point loads.

Besides extra training, the tradeoff with a pendant is increased height of hover when pilots want to fly as close to the ground as possible. Ullery said considerations for the improved pendant design included compact size, low weight and low stretch, but the most important features of the new design are strength and durability.

### **Army names new AMC logistics units in Iraq, uncases new colors**

Taking the shape of the Army they serve, two Army Materiel Command organizations in Iraq recently uncased new colors.

Army Field Support Brigade – Iraq replaces AMC Logistics Support Element – Iraq, and the Equipment Support Activity – Iraq Zone has become Army Field Support Battalion – Iraq.

"These newly designated units reflect their parent, Army Field Support Command, and signal a change from the static to the expeditionary. Our structure now matches that of the Army we support," said Col. Xavier P. Lobeto, commander of the new brigade.

Speaking at the ceremony, Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commander of AMC, noted the newly designated units are on the forefront of transformation, providing combat logistics support to troops in the field. He compared AFSC and its newest brigade and battalion to the Army's emergency capability: able to respond immediately and deliver logistics power wherever and whenever joint forces require.

With more than 2,500 people serving throughout Iraq, the new brigade and its subordinate battalion make good on the promise that if a Soldier wears it, drives it, shoots it, flies it or just plain needs it, AMC is poised to deliver it. "We're one team of Soldiers, civilian employees and contractors, dedicated to one mission: supporting maneuver units," Lobeto said.

### **Did you know ...**

The Medal of Honor, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith received posthumously for his actions in Baghdad, was placed in a shadow box in the facility that bears his name at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's Simulation, Training and Technology Center, Orlando, Fla.

The Medal of Honor is the United State's highest award for valor in combat. Since the medal's Civil War inception, only 3,459 have been awarded.